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be in a heathen assembly when such discussions go on. This war system reminds me of Moore's lines :

"Poor race of man," said the pitying spirit,  
"Dearly ye pay for your primal fall,  
Some flowers of Eden ye still inherit,  
But the trail of the serpent is over them all."

Such a state of things is simply heartrending ; it is horrible ; and if I believed that it was intended it should continue, I should think the world is a great failure. But if we allow it to continue it will be entirely our own fault. All honor, therefore, to those who promote such societies as this one, for they are on the right tack. The efforts of this Society have not been unsuccessful, as the Report shows, for even now there are some rifts in the clouds. Fortunately we have kept at peace during the last few years, a fact which on the face of it somewhat militates against some of the opinions which I have always held, namely, that great armies are the proximate cause of war. But I believe I am right still ; though I must admit that the armies of Europe have swelled to such large numbers that they by their very size seem to hold each other in check ; for each nation is too terrified to begin. And everybody must be terrified who knows how complete and terrible the instruments of destruction are ; so destructive indeed that in the event of war vast multitudes of mankind would be swept out of existence in a few days. A fresh European conflict would be (and it will be admitted by all) a most awful thing. Happily there are no signs or threats at present of any such occurrence.

Mr. Gladstone is of opinion that the people are peaceably inclined, but are led into war by the upper classes, by the newspapers, and by the people who make a great noise, having none of the responsibilities incurred by war.

The people, he thinks, if let alone, would be for peace, at any rate we can do much to educate their tendencies in that direction ; we can show them day by day without cessation the immeasurable and unutterable folly of this war system. This is the duty of each one of us. I am afraid we cannot trust it to the clergy ; they have, perhaps, done their best, but bad is their best. I do not think they go quite the right way about it ; on Sunday, say, they read the lesson about beating swords into ploughshares, and spears into pruning hooks, and on the next day bless the colors of a regiment, or christen one of those slaughter ships which is going to carry devastation throughout the world. If I have little hope of the clergy, I have still less hope of the so-called upper classes. The upper classes are the idle classes, and the idle classes are the dangerous classes. Having nothing else to do they are delighted to put on a red coat and get some one to blow a trumpet before them, with a result that they are looked at by all the nursery maids. That is what they like. I have also but little hope of what are called orthodox statesmen. They are good in their way, but worse, from our point of view, than the clergy. I was much struck with that expression of Signor Bonghi—"The absurd position into which statesmen and politicians have brought us." Their opinion seems to be that the best way to maintain peace is to keep up vast armaments. But do not blame them ; everything acts according to its kind. The only way to get good out of statesmen is to set the democracy upon them.

Not by physical, but by moral, force, do the people progress and gain their victories.—*Hon. J. R. Murphy.*

#### VON MOLTKE'S CIGAR.

FROM "WAR AS IT IS."

Do you recollect the anecdote Bismarck's own friends attribute to the great and admired chancellor? He was anxious about the issue of the battle of Königgrätz, which he witnessed, of course, at a prudent distance. Looking searchingly at Moltke he felt himself tolerably satisfied, for the general was with great repose smoking the remains of a cigar ; and when Bismarck offered him another from his own case, with the air of a confident commander, he deliberately chose the best. So Bismarck felt quite reassured.

When I fancy to myself these two gentlemen with the cigar-case, so peaceful over the heart churning battle before them (as perhaps one would hardly be if one had a good dog down there in the fray), I imagine at the same time my son amid the butchery, no matter on which side, and my wrath boils up within me, and I want to appeal to my fellow-countrymen, yes, and if I could, to all the thoughtful people in the world, with the question : Have we nothing else to do but to smoke tobacco and look on?

Fancy, if at this moment a conveyance with five or six people were overturned outside, and the horses were trampling upon the bleeding, shrieking heap ; who would or could busy himself choosing the best tobacco to smoke the more comfortably? But at Sadowa (Königgrätz) 30,000 men lay spread over the neighborhood, killed or piteously mutilated.

A man who was present at that fight thus describes it : "In my ear sounded continually the thundering roar of thousands of guns, mingling with the cries from thousands of human throats. I heard the groans of the wounded, the rattle of the dying ; desperate shrieks of thousands of victims, sunk to the last depths of undeserved misery. I saw in all directions staring eyes, wide open, livid, convulsed, twisted mouths, chests pierced through, smashed skulls, quivering limbs, heaps of corpses, streams of blood. \* \* \* I wept with despair, and cursed the man who could commit such an unpardonable crime as to foment a war between two nations."

It was in the face of all this that Moltke chose the daintiest cigar from Bismarck's case.

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We are indebted to *Concord* for the following fragment of a speech made by Lord Dufferin recently at the Annual Banquet of the British Chamber of Commerce, Paris.

#### LORD DUFFERIN ON AMBASSADORS AS PEACE-PRESERVERS.

"In former times the functions of an Embassy were supposed to be exclusively political, and such matters as trade and commerce were hardly considered worthy of the attention of the sharp young gentlemen who formed our diplomatic corps. But things have altered since those days. A very proper prominence is now given at the examinations of the diplomatic service to political and economical subjects. Every year the first secretaries of all the Embassies are required to produce an elaborate commercial report, a duty which, as far as I have observed, they discharge with equal zeal and intelligence. Almost